

REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed July 1, 2004. At the time of the Office Action, Claims 1-26 were pending in this application. Claims 7 and 10-14 were allowed, claims 8 and 9 were objected to, and claims 1-6 and 15-26 were rejected. The Abstract was objected to as containing legal phraseology.

Objections to the Claims and Abstract of the Specification

Claims 8 and 9 were objected to because of informalities. Claims 8 and 9 have been amended to depend from allowed independent claim 7, as helpfully suggested by the examiner.

The Abstract of the Specification has been amended to remove any legal phraseology. No new matter has been added.

Rejections of the Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-6, 15-18 and 22-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burns et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,528,665) in view of Beatty et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,562,550), Allinger et al. (U.S. Pat. App. No. 2002/0191733 A1) and Hayashi et al. (JP 07093505 A).

Claims 1-6, 15-18 and 22-24 have been canceled.

Claims 25 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burns et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,528,665) in view of Beatty et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,562,550), Allinger et al. (U.S. Pat. App. No. 2002/0191733 A1), Hayashi et al. (JP 07093505 A), and further in view of Young et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,493,581).

Claims 25 and 26 have been canceled.

Allowed Claims

Claims 7, 10-14 were allowed, and claims 8 and 9 have been amended so as to depend from allowed independent claim 7.

All amendments are made in a good faith effort to advance the prosecution on the merits. Applicant reserves the right to subsequently take up prosecution on the claims as originally filed in this or appropriate continuation, continuation-in-part and/or divisional applications.

Applicant respectfully submits that no amendments have been made to the pending claims for the purpose of overcoming any prior art rejections that would restrict the literal scope of the claims or equivalents thereof.

Applicant respectfully requests that the amendments submitted herein be entered, and further request reconsideration in light of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of all objections and rejections, and that there be an early notice of allowance.

SUMMARY

In light of the above amendments and remarks Applicant respectfully submits that the application is now in condition for allowance and early notice of the same is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions, comments or suggestions in furtherance of the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the attorney of record by telephone or facsimile.

Applicant believes that there are no fees due in association with the filing of this Response. However, should the Commissioner deem that any fees are due, including any fees for extensions of time, Applicant respectfully requests that the Commissioner accept this as a Petition Therefor, and direct that any and all fees due are charged to Baker Botts L.L.P. **Deposit Account No. 02-0383, (formerly Baker & Botts, L.L.P.) Order Number 068354.1089.**

Respectfully submitted,
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